



Monday, September 11, 2006

SDMS DocID

460568

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## Koczera joins opposition to Aerovox cleanup plan

By JOAO FERREIRA, Standard-Times staff writer

ACUSHNET — State Rep. Robert M. Koczera has written to regional administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency opposing the chosen Aerovox cleanup plan.

He said the demolition of the contaminated building and burial of debris on site is not an "acceptable option under any circumstance." He wrote that sentiment in his Aug. 21 letter to David Dickinson, project manager with EPA New England.

"I support the demolition of the Aerovox building and the removal of demolition debris from the site as well as the removal of contaminated soils from the site," wrote Rep. Koczera, D-New Bedford, who also represents Acushnet. "Just as our community demanded the removal of harbor contaminants from the site, we insist on the removal of building debris and contaminated soil from the Aerovox site as well."

The EPA has recommended the cheapest of five cleanup options for Aerovox, which was one of two electrical parts manufacturers responsible for dumping PCBs into the harbor from 1940-77.

Under the plan, estimated to cost \$7.9 million, the building would be demolished and the material would be buried in the basement under a cap of at least 2 feet of clean soil and vegetation.

Under the other four plans, which range in cost from \$14.5 million to \$18 million, some or all of the waste would be buried elsewhere.

On Aug. 31, Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., wrote to Peter Varney, EPA regional administrator, in opposition to the chosen plan.

Neighbors of the defunct plant at 740 Belleville Ave., the Coalition for Buzzards Bay and Acushnet officials also have expressed concern about the cleanup plan.

Among those is Karen A. Vilandry, who also wrote a letter to Mr. Dickerson.

"I have reviewed your short-term cleanup options and feel that they are grossly inadequate given the degree of highly toxic contamination at that site," Ms. Vilandry wrote in her letter.

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Date of Publication: September 11, 2006 on Page A03



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